### RICH AND POOR GIVE

To Relieve the Sufferings of the Famine Stricken,

BUT THE TASK IS TOO GREAT

For Both Church and State-Count Tolator and Family to the Rescue-Cause of the Famine.

Russia's famine finds its only paraltel in the terrible want and privation with which India has been stricken me and again, and in the depths of misery to which Ireland has fallen during its awful famine years. Where a Ireland the destitution was confined a few counties, in Russia at present it is ravaging over eighteen of the largest provinces in the empire, an ex-tent of territory as large as France, Beigium and Switzerland.

The rich are giving their jewels; even the poor in the cities are bringing to the churches the remnants of their daily food. No day passes in which a dozen relief trains do not leave St. Petersburg, and almost as many go daily from Mescow, Libau, and other large

The great international market at Nijni-Novgorod is filled with sailowchecked beggar peasants, who have flocked there only to find an empty market, and destitution almost as severe as it is at their homes in Samara and Kazan. The highways about Kiew, about Novo-Ouzenek, Samura and Kacan are filled with starving men, somen and children, intent upon plunder, looking to prison walls as a baven of food and drink. Children are strangled as they reach for the crust of the bread which must go to the famishing and stronger mother and father.

Cases of acute starvation are reported from all sides. Contagious diseases, direct consequences of starvation, have broken out in Kazan, adding their ravages to those caused by hunger. Judicial proceedings in common law courts have had to be stopped, because witnesses happened to be peasants and were lying with feet swollen from star-

Mothers are killing their children that they may not see them tortured by hunger, parents are selling their daughters to get a crust of bread. Whole districts are slowly starving themselves out upon pig-weed, husks and boiled grass. The papers are publishing elaborate articles upon the use of acorns and other similar substances as a substitute

In twelve of the provinces the famine is complete. In six only partial. Forty millions are suffering and it is estimated



that it will take 100,000,000 pounds, or 75,000,000 bushels of grain to keep the population alive until the next crop. As yet no appeal has been made by

the government of that country to sister nations. The story of the want and misery that is revalent has leaked out bit by bit, and it is only by the appeals of individuals that the extent of the deprivation was made known.

It is a queer fact that no united effort on the part of the people can be made to assist the stricken. All aid must go through government agents or must be made by individuals. In a word, no two persons are allowed to make any appeal in their collective name without Jaying themselves liable to prosecution on the clarge of forming an illegal assuciation.

A word as to the stricken district, its

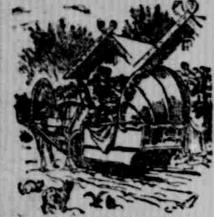
geography and resources. In what is known as West Russia, South Russia and the Canonius there is plenty. It is in Astrokan and Kazan, provinces to East Russia, that the want is greatest. The Volga river, which empties itself into the Caspian sen, near the city of 1840 there has been no great crop fallure. The city of Samura lies on the Volgs and is in the center of the famine. In the parth lies the city of Peru. Here and in the country adjacent there is at least a small quantity of seed grain, but this is being esten, and unas succor arrives within the month the destitution will parallel that in the lower country. Moseow may be said to be just outside the stricken district, and its streets are filled to overflowing with the starving peasants. The prisons are erowded beyond their capacity and every hospital in and about the city is earing for twice and three times the sual number. Most of these come from Peasa, Suratoff, Tambor, Nijni Novgorod and Samara Little Russia, the raviges of the south of Moscow, has sough food to care for its own destitote and has thus far made no appeal for all. South Anuals is caring for nearly one million of the sufferers who have ifocked into its berritory.

Russia has andeavorud to cope singlebanded with the familia, and even now. when the records show thousands of dying daily, it has made no appeal to ther nations. Its mothods of aiding the stricken were planned on a most generum scale, but the extent of the disaster made the application enything but natisfactory. The government itself was reported to have subsectiond sixtyfre million ration, but only twenty million were sent out among the poor. The rest is still to come.

Ten million rubles have been set apart by the department of public works to give employment to the men in Sumara and Kazan. All of this money is being expended under the direst supervision of Gen. Annenkow, who built the railway from the Black

sea to eastern Asia. This is a sample subscription list taken from a late issue of the Journal de St. Petersburg:

To this are added the names of four or five thousand prominent society peo-ple, all of whom have subscribed in



relief fund. In fact, the Journal de St. Petersburg announces that its own abscription list in four days reached 24,436 rubles.

At the Anitchkow bridge, in St. Petersburg, the government receives each day over a thousand wagon loads of food and clothing. All the ship companies on the Black sea are sending grain to the port nearest the famine district free of charge, publishing their offers in all of the papers of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Relief trains are leaving Libau and St. Petersburg many times a day, stopping at all way stations to add to their great loads of grain, food and clothing. The trains from St. Petersburg cover the central part of the stricken district; those from Libau go direct to the Volga river to the town of Tzaritzan, near Astrakan.

The transportation facilities to the northern part of the stricken districts are exceedingly meager, and it is on this account that the famine there is so intense. Caravans of wagons leave Moseow and the railroad termini daily,

aiding as they move along.

All this shows that while there may be enormous waste through bribery and peculation the great mass of the Russian people have awakened to the situation and are doing what they can.

The Greek church is doing a herculean

work. Its arms reach out to every nook and corner of the vast empire, and while in the stricken districts the places of worship have been changed into hos-pitals and distribution halls, in all other sections they have become receiving stations, and none so poor as to hold eack his mite. It is this united work of the government and the church which was, however, found powerless to relieve all the destitute.

Forty million is the number of the penniless, and in the face of that gaunt speater even despotism gave way and the one concession, that individuals could distribute the donations they reseived, was made. It was at this juneture that Count Tolstoi jumped, armed with practical ideas and back of him a host of rich friends, into the midst of the destruction and began the establishment of his famous soup houses. "First the children and the aged," he cried. "The strong can suffer till those are relieved."

"I visited one of these Tolstoi soun kitchens in the Dankov district," writes an American to a friend in New York. "and I search in vain for words to describe the pitiful scene. Tolstol himself was there eating with the poorest of those he aided. With him were two Englishmen, 'Angels of the Red Cross,' as some one calls them. They were gathering the best morsels for the sick. The sunken cheeks and bowed frames of men, women and children told me the story of their abject want. All were like children in their greed and it



RELIEVING THE SICK.

touch of the great Tolstoi himself to bring them to a partial sense of duty. I should judge that there were thirty people gathered in this barn. Stones served as tables and on these the starylog were served with a pitiful bit of Astrakan, waters the famine district, a grael, the purchase and preparation of most fertile country, and in which since which the generosity of Count Tolstol's friends had made possible.

"In other districts the sons and daughter of the count are doing similar service, while the wife issues appeal after appeal from her home is Moscow, receives the donations and sends them on to where there is the greatest need. There is no waste in this distribution, it all goes to the poor, and even the richest are beginning to turn their resources into the Telatoi channel. It is a giant work, and it is being done by mighty

Here is one of the pseuliar petitions

sent out by the counters. "My whole family has broken up to go and belp in review parts of the constry. My has basis, Count Lyor Toletoi, is at present with our two designments. Use Dankov district trying to airmage the largest possible number of free complications, or, as the pearants have named them. Care for Orphana. My two older sons, who serve in the Hed Cross, are actively helping in the Chartesia, district, and my younger see has come to the involvers of Sainters to open notice. questo from a latter that my daughter has orth-ten to me from the Danker (Estrick, referring to the seap stickens which the love hand swe

has been agenced in a tiny chicken because a widow cooks themer for B permits. When I entered a let of children wors sixting at table, each with a prior of breed, and eating set table, each with a prior of breed, and eating set; Barreral aid women were attaching and waiting their toric I taken with a state of the prior brings are breed aid to alternate and theme. The poor liftings are breed aid to alternate and the prior brings are breed aid to alternate and the prior brings are breed aid to a security at their barre. et. They receive two monits a day at , and the most of city, fuel furinfied, imported to 1 miles. St improbe a

husband and children.
Denations may be furwarded as follows:
Count Lyor Nikolaevich Tulatol. No is DelgoKhameynishesky, Perceulok, Moscow
"It will not be for me to thank those who respond to my appeal, but for the unfortunate
people whom they will save from augrestica."

PAMINE-STRICKEN FOR TWENTY TEAM.
[By Lee Hartman, the famous Nihilist.]
Of the localities afflicted by famine in Russia I am personally acquainted only with Saratoff and Samara, the first of which was settled by German colonists, who own plenty of land and are among the wealthiest peasantry. The total number of peasants in Russia is 80, 000,000, 20,000,000 of whom are now suffering intensely from the shortage in

food supplies. The immediate cause of this great famine is not to be found in the bad harvest of last year. It is a wellknown fact, recognized by the con-servatives and liberal papers and mag-azines of Russia, that this same famine has been in existence for twenty consecutive years, during which time these same people, now poignantly affected, have been living in a state of chronic starvation, now forced to a crisis only

by the emptiness of granaries.

The cause of this starvation has been the taxes extorted from the peasants by the government. These taxes may be divided into three kinds: Oolest, provincial and imperial, which correspond to the county, state and national taxes of the United States. The local or colest are per capita taxes that go to keep up the police, roads, schools, granaries, priests and churches. Besides these the local officials, appointed from St. Petersburg, have to be bribed by the peasants. The provincial taxes pay the salaries of the provincial officials, keep up the police courts and the provincial schools and colleges. To this class of taxes must be added the cost of the revenue stamps that are attached to every petition addressed either to court or executive official and to passports. Then the central government collects a percapita tax from each peasant of 3 rubles a year, or the equivalent of \$1.50. These various kinds of taxes, including bribery, extortion and usury, aggregate from 30 to 40 rubles a year to the individual, or \$20.

Now let us get the value of a ruble to a Russian peasant. In the central provinces a peasant with a horse can ear one ruble a day, or 50 cents, but he must find for himself and animal. But the average peasant does not earn more than \$50 a year, so the importance of a \$30 tax to him can be appreciated at a

glance.
Michailoff, a writer for a Russian magazine, has recently written of some startling examples of this taxing of the peasantry. He has collected statistics from eleven villages in a small area in the province of Simolensk that show that the uncollected, but overdue, taxes for that territory are ten times the actual valuation of the property. Since no money could be found among the peasants the officials resorted to flogging in an effort to squeeze it out of them. Each inhabitant was subjected ar for three years That, at least, was the average number of lashes, and if one man missed his allotment his neighbor was required to take a double dose. At Narva, in the province of St. Petersburg, this same author estimates the total income of the peasants to be 250,000 rubles a year in the time of an average harvest. But the taxes during the same period amount to 450,000 rubles.

Is it possible to trust such officials with money from America for the fam-ine stricken? Is the idea not repugnant to liberty-loving Americans sending money to support and strengther and help to continue in power this despotism? It would be like giving money to the Italian padroni to succor the Italian laborers whose bloed they sucked, or like sending money to a thief to aid his victim. Has not civilization advanced too far to render it profitable to support this monarchy of physical force in which the people have

American money should be sent to American consuls, or the English pastors or other foreigners in Russia, but not to Russian officials. Count Tolstoi is a man of principle, who can well be trusted with the distribution of relief funds, but I must say that I doubt if the Russian government will long permit him or any other honest Russian to receive and distribute funds.

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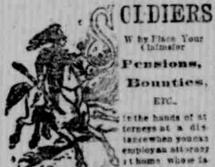


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